

HERSETH SANDLIN PARTICIPATES IN RURAL VETERANS ROUNDTABLE

Washington, DC-Today, Rep. Herseth Sandlin joined with members of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) officials, representatives of Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) and other stakeholders for a roundtable discussion focused on the health care needs of rural veterans. In particular, the discussion focused on exploring ways to improve veteran access to community-based care, ensuring that proper quality standards for care are upheld, and improving and expanding VA outreach to rural veterans to increase awareness of available benefits and services.

"In speaking with veterans, VA officials, and Veterans Service Organizations in South Dakota, it is clear that access to care is the top concern for rural veterans in our state," Rep. Herseth Sandlin said. "The challenge of providing the best possible care to our rural veterans impacts South Dakotans every day and I look forward to working with my colleagues, Secretary Shinseki and other stakeholders as we continue to try to improve access to care."

Nationwide, approximately 40 percent (3.2 million) of the enrolled veterans population lives in rural areas.

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